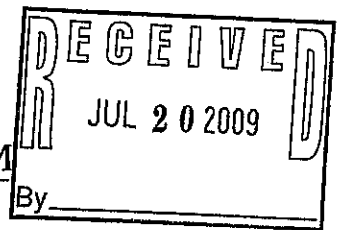




NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH SYSTEM

189 Prouty Drive Newport, VT 05855 802.334.7331 www.nchsi.org



July 15, 2009.

Michael Hartman, Commissioner
State of Vermont
Department of Mental Health
Office of the Commissioner
108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

Dear Commissioner Hartman:

Thank you for your recent invitation for North Country Hospital to bid on providing psychiatric inpatient services as part of the Vermont State Hospital Futures project. At this juncture North Country is not considering an expanded role in this capacity; therefore, we respectfully decline to submit a proposal for this project. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of North Country Hospital in your invitation to bid.

Sincerely,

Claudio D. Fort
President/CEO